

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SAM-01 AGR-10 EB-07 COME-00

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 OES-05 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 RSC-01 INT-05 IO-10 /089 W

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R 271159Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1531

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS LISBON 452

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PO

SUBJ: DROUGHT SITUATION-PORTUGAL

REF: ALGIERS 0156

1. WIDE SPREAD RAINS BEGINNING ABOUT MID JANUARY 1975
BROKE RAINLESS PERIOD WHICH HAD EXISTED IN CENTRAL AND
SOUTHERN PORTUGAL (ALENTEJO AND ALGARVE REGIONS) SINCE
LAST SEPT. THESE REGIONS MAJOR PRODUCTION CENTER FOR
FOOD GRAINS, OILSEEDS, LIVESTOCK, OLIVES AND TOMATOES
FOR PROCESSING.

2. RAINS IN THESE REGIONS DURING PAST 2 WEEKS HAVE ALLOWED
GRAIN CROP (WHEAT, BARLEY, OATS AND RYE) TO MAKE GOOD
INITIAL GROWTH. SOME ADDITIONAL WHEAT AND BARLEY ACREAGE,
AT THE EXPENSE OF OILSEEDS, ARE BEING PLANTED SINCE THE
RAINS BEGAN. ADDITIONAL RAINS WILL BE NEEDED THROUGH APRIL
TO INSURE CROP DEVELOPMENT AS SUB-SOIL MOISTURE LACKING.

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WITHOUT RAIN DURING THIS PERIOD AREA PLANTED TO OILSEEDS

IN APRIL MAY ALSO BE REDUCED.

3. MAJOR CONCERN AT THIS TIME IS LACK OF IRRIGATION WATER IN STORAGE DAMS FOR IRRIGATED CROPS (RICE AND TOMATOES AND LESSER EXTENT CORN). DESPITE RECENT RAINS RIVER AND STREAM FLOW IS VERY LOW OR NONEXISTENT. LIKELIHOOD LESS ACREAGE OF RICE AND TOMATOES WILL BE PLANTED THIS SEASON.

4. LIVESTOCK HAVE SUFFERED FROM POOR VPASTURE CONDITIONS, WHILE OLIVE TREES AND GRAPE VINES WERE ALSO AFFECTED BUT RAINS AT THIS TIME BELIEVE SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW FULL RECOVERY.
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